

Dallas Police Nab Former N.O. Cuban Exile Leader

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Conspiracy to Burglarize Arms Bunker, Charge



—AP WIREPHOTO
SERGIO ARACCHA SMITH (right) a Cuban exile leader, is shown being taken into the Dallas County jail on Monday after his arrest on a warrant obtained by District Attorney Jim Garrison. Arcacha Smith is charged with conspiring to burglarize a munitions bunker in Houma in 1961. Deputy Sheriff Buddy Walters is shown escorting him to the jail.

Sergio Arcacha Smith, a 44-year-old former New Orleans Cuban exile leader, was arrested in Dallas, Tex., Monday on a New Orleans warrant charging he conspired to commit burglary with two figures in District Attorney Jim Garrison's presidential assassination probe.

Garrison's warrant alleged that Arcacha, Gordon Novel and the late David W. Ferrie conspired to burglarize a munitions bunker in Houma in 1961.

Novel had been arrested Saturday in Gahanna, Ohio, on a fugitive charge involving the same alleged crime. Ferrie, a pilot, died in New Orleans Feb. 22.

PLOT CHARGED

Garrison has alleged Ferrie, Oswald and Clay L. Shaw plotted in mid-September, 1963, to kill President John F. Kennedy. Oswald was named by the Warren Report as the sole assassin.

The warrant for Arcacha said the burglary of the munitions bunker was "in order to obtain explosives and other forms of munitions belonging to Schlumberger Well Services, a corporation authorized to do business in the state of Louisiana." The charge did not say what explosives or munitions were involved.

Arcacha said he left his native Cuba shortly after Fidel Castro came to power and first settled in Miami. He said he then lived in New Orleans, Miami again, Houston and then Dallas.

ARRESTED AT HOME

He was arrested at his home by burglary and theft detectives of the Dallas police, photographed and fingerprinted at the police station then transferred to the county jail.

An employee of a Dallas air-conditioning manufacturing firm, Arcacha has insisted he knows of "nothing pertinent I could tell the New Orleans people," although he said he knew Ferrie.

He said last week, after he

learned the warrant for his arrest had been issued, that "It is a shame that in this country they do this to honest people."

The warrants for both Arcacha and Novel were signed by Criminal District Court Judge Thomas Brahney, who set bond at \$5,000 for each.

Meanwhile, Novel appeared in a Columbus, Ohio, court Monday, but remained in jail after he failed to come up with bond money.

Novel showed up before Municipal Judge Wilbur Shull and

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